them expressed the view that the programme had led to an increase in their family employment. Again about 77% of the selected Sample households stated that their consumption level had increased, and 64% felt that their overall social status in the village had been elevated as a result of their coverage under the programme. Anoher significant finding of the Evaluation Study is that 40% of the Sample beneficiary families belong to the scheduled castes and tribes. Keeping in view the conditions of poverty existing in the rural areas of India, these achievements are substantial

The performance level of the programmes varied from area to area. Some of the major deficiencies noted in the implementation of the programme by the Study are given below.

The Study felt that the administrative and organisational set up at various levels required to be strengthened. Greater attention needed to be given to the placing of competent personnel in various positions, the continuity of tenure of programme functionaries, to training programmes and better supervision and monitoring. Regarding the planning process, the Study emphasised the need for the preparation of perspective plans for each block and district as envisaged in the guidelines and for the integration of these plans with the local plans of the blocks and districts. Regarding selection of beneficiaries the Study found that as many as 25.8 per cent were ineligible as they already belonged to the income group of Rs. 3,500 and above and stressed the need for proper identification of beneficiary families. It was also found that only 15.2% of the beneficiaries belonged to the income group of Rs. 1500 and less. Some anomalies in the functioning of financial institutions, in matters such as adjustment of the subsiy amount, security from beneficiaries and the norms of repayment were also observed and the Report felt there was a need to introduce suitable procedures to eliminate them. Another finding of the Report was the over-emphasis on assistance for schemes in the primary sector. As many as 75 per cent of sample beneficiaries were from the primary sector, only 8 per cent from the secondary sector and 17 per cent from the tertiary sector. The need was stressed for having a shelf of baukable schemes suitable for different areas and conditions taking into account variations in infrastructure, marketing facilities etc.

The drawbacks in the implementation of IRDP high-lighted in the Evaluation Report are being taken into account by the Government in its efforts to improve and strengthen the programme.

Recommendations of the panel to Study the Sri Lanka refugee problem

*157. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any high level panel visited Rameswaram to study the Sri Lanka refugee problem;

(b) if so, what are its findings; and

(c) what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) I and senior officers of the Ministry visited Rameswaram as well as Mandapam camp to ensure that relief measures are being extened satisfactorily to the refugees.

(b) and (c) Adequate and timely relief measures including cash doles, subsidised rations, consumer articles, medical facilties, etc. are being extended to the refugees in the camp. Th inmates expressed satisfaction at the relief arrangements.